

CLAIMS

1. A preventive or therapeutic agent for inflammatory bowel disease comprising an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist as an active ingredient.

5        2. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 1 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

10       3. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 2 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

4. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

15       5. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 3 wherein the antibody directed against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

20       6. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to any of claims 2 to 5 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

7. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 4 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

25       8. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 5 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

30       9. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to any of claims 2 to 4 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric or humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

10. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to claim 9 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

35       11. The preventive or therapeutic agent according to any of claims 1 to 10 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

12. An agent for suppressing weight loss in

inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an IL-6 antagonist as an active ingredient.

13. An agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease said agent comprising an antibody against IL-6 receptor as an active ingredient.

14. A method of preventing or treating inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist to the subject.

15. The method according to claim 14 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

16. The method according to claim 15 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

17. The method according to claim 16 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

18. The method according to claim 16 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

19. The method according to any of claims 15 to 18 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

20. The method according to claim 17 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

21. The method according to claim 18 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

22. The method according to any of claims 15 to 17 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric antibody or a humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

23. The method according to claim 22 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

24. The method according to any of claims 14 to 23 wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

25. A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an IL-6 antagonist to the subject.

5 26. A method of suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease which method comprises administering an antibody against IL-6 receptor to the subject.

10 27. The use of an interleukin-6 (IL-6) antagonist for the production of a preventive or therapeutic agent for inflammatory bowel disease.

28. The use according to claim 27 wherein the IL-6 antagonist is an antibody against IL-6 receptor.

15 29. The use according to claim 28 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against IL-6 receptor.

30. The use according to claim 29 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor.

20 31. The use according to claim 29 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor.

32. The use according to any of claims 28 to 31 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a recombinant antibody.

25 33. The use according to claim 30 wherein the monoclonal antibody against human IL-6 receptor is PM-1 antibody.

30 34. The use according to claim 31 wherein the monoclonal antibody against mouse IL-6 receptor is MR16-1 antibody.

35. The use according to any of claims 28 to 30 wherein the antibody against IL-6 receptor is a chimeric or humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor.

35 36. The use according to claim 35 wherein the humanized antibody against IL-6 receptor is a humanized PM-1 antibody.

37. The use according to any of claims 27 to 36

wherein the inflammatory bowel disease is Crohn's disease or ulcerative colitis.

5       38. The use of an IL-6 antagonist for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.

      39. The use of antibody directed against IL-6 receptor for the production of an agent for suppressing weight loss in inflammatory bowel disease.